

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 COME-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEA'NER/BTK

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

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O 022253Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EINV, HA

SUBJECT: CROOK TESTIMONY ON TRANSLINEAR

1. UPI CARRIED FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF AMBASSADOR CROOK'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PROXMIRE COMMITTEE.
2. QUOTE A TEXAS BUSINESSMAN TESTIFIED TODAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOTHING WHEN HE COMPLAINED THAT HAITIAN PRESIDENT JEAN CLAUDE INNER QUOTE BABY DOC INNER QUOTE DUVALIER'S INNER QUOTE PALACE INNER QUOTE DEMANDED A HALF MILLION DOLLAR BRIBE AND HALF OWNERSHIP OF HIS COMPANY.

WILLIAM CROOK SAID THE REFUSAL OF HIS FIRM, TRANS-LINEAR INC. OF TEXAS, TO MEET THE DEMANDS LAST YEAR LED TO THE CONFISCATION OF EQUIPMENT AND CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT TO DEVELOP THE HAITIAN ISLAND OF TORTUGA INTO A FREEPORT AND TOURIST CENTER.

CROOK, WHO ONCE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, AND A BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, DR. WILLIAM CARDEN, TESTIFIED BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

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A CONGRESSIONAL JOINT ECONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE ABOUT THE

IMPACT ON U.S. COMPANIES THAT REFUSE TO PAY OVERSEAS
BRIBES.

INNER QUOTE IN RETROSPECT, I WAS RATHER NAIVE INNER QUOTE
ABOUT THE REQUESTED PAYOFFS, CROOK TOLD SEN. WILLIAM
PROXMIRE, D-WIS. BUT HE EXPRESSED INNER QUOTE DISAPPOINT-
MENT INNER QUOTE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE
EMBASSY TOOK SCANT INTEREST.

CROOK SAID HE SENT A TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY KISSINGER SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE APRIL 15, 1975,
INCIDENT, BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY UNTIL FRIDAY. PROXMIRE,
WHO CHAIRED THE HEARING, SAID THE RESPONSE CAME AFTER HE
ASKED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO TESTIFY ON THE MATTER.

THE TRANSLINEAR OFFICIALS SAID THEY BEGAN PLANNING WITH
THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1971 TO BUILD A HOTEL,
TOURIST AND TRADE CENTER AT TORTUGA. TRANSLINEAR WAS TOLD
THAT A SHORTAGE OF WATER MADE THE PROJECT DIFFICULT, BUT
THE COMPANY DISCOVERED ARTESIAN WELLS SUFFICIENT FOR A
POPULATION OF 10,000.

SHORTLY AFTER THE WATER DISCOVERY, TRANSLINEAR WAS
ORDERED TO LEAVE TORTUGA. FOLLOWING TWO YEARS OF
NEGOTIATIONS WITH HAITIAN OFFICIALS, CARDEN RETURNED
TO HAITI AND WAS TOLD TO GO TO A PARK IN A PORT-AU-PRINCE
SUBURB.

CARDEN SAID A INNER QUOTE GRADE-B GANGSTER, EVEN DOWN TO
THE DETAIL OF REFLECTIVE SUNGLASSES INNER QUOTE ORDERED
HIM TO PAY 500,000 DOLS AND 50 PER CENT OF TRANSLINEAR
STOCK TO 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE INNER QUOTE
PALACE INNER QUOTE -- THE HAITIAN EQUIVALENT OF A WHITE
HOUSE.

CARDEN SAID HE LEARNED LATER THAT THE MAN AND ANOTHER WHO
LATER BECAME INVOLVED IN THE DEMAND WERE EMPLOYED AT THE
HAITIAN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

CROOK SERVED UNDER PRESIDENT JOHNSON AS DIRECTOR OF VISTA,
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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
AND AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA. END QUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, BRIBERY, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE050921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJCHEA'NER/BTK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760079-0883
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603102/aaaadmhc.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROOK TESTIMONY ON TRANSLINEAR
TAGS: BDIS, EINV, HA, US, TRANSLINEAR, (PROXMIRE, WILLIAM), (CARDEN, WILLIAM), (CROOK, WILLIAM)
To: PORT AU PRINCE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006